Oklahoma Chess Monthly

NOVEMBER 2018

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Chess Lessons from an Old Kung-Fu Movie

In This Issue:

- Mystery of Chess Boxing
- Heavy Piece Endings
- IM Donaldson Book Review
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

The Big Chess Story…

… this month is obviously the Carlsen-Caruana Match for the World Championship, beginning on November 9 in London.

Games with live Internet coverage will start at 09:00am local time. It's the first time an American has been in a prominent championship match since Fischer, and it could have positive effects for publicity on chess in the USA.

Here in Oklahoma, we have a WATCH PARTY event on Saturday, November 10, in Tulsa (see Upcoming Tournaments page), with big-screen TV live coverage and side events to make it fun. Check that out!

Also, this month I annotate Caruana's impressive victory over World #3 grandmaster Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, part of an in-depth article on Heavy Piece Endings. The way he outplayed Mamedyarov in this game is impressive and bodes well for the match. Carlsen knows now that he will have his hands full, and Caruana is ready and able to take him down. What will happen? We shall see.

But first — a Kung fu adventure for us to lighten the mood!

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MYSTERY OF CHESS BOXING: WHAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT CHESS FROM A CHEESY CHINESE CLASSIC KUNG-FU MOVIE

by Tom Braunlich

There is a great old Chinese cinema kung-fu action flick called "Mystery of Chess Boxing."
You can see it online here:

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iczg2z5xOUE

The movie features a kung-fu master who teaches his student using "chess" as a metaphor. The chess they are talking about is *Chinese Chess* (Xiang-chi), but the quaint wisdom he passes on still sort-of applies to modern chess — if you squint a bit and roll with the poorly translated idiomatic esoteric phrases!

The movie has a campy-type humor to it, although I don't think this was intentional, and is a joy to watch.

The Plot: The Master is teaching the Student (Ah Pao) the ways of Kung-fu. Suddenly a bad guy shows up, whose name is "Ghost-Faced Killer," and starts killing all his old enemies using unbeatable Kung-fu skill, and the last one he wants is the Master. They fight, and the Master is defeated — but not killed because the student comes and saves the day, using his chess training to guide him.

Here I have taken chess-related screen captures from the movie and arrayed them in order so that you get the essence of the story and the "chess lessons" hidden here.

Read the captions at the bottom of each image, plus my comments, and enjoy!

The lessons continue…

Note: Good advice for the Najdorf…

Physical training is also involved.
I usually don't require my own students to do this…

The lessons continue…

Chinese Chess has a "river" across the middle that restricts movement. And there are "Cannon" pieces that can fire over the river.

Ah Pao is a good student, but gets confused by the Master's beautiful daughter, who teases him. *(You gotta have a love interest.)*

Suddenly the bad guy shows up!
Ghost-Faced Killer!

Ghost-Faced Killer has even more catch-phrases than the Master does!

Some of his catch-phrases are a little obscure, however.

He is an expert of the *water* technique, and challenges the Master to a duel.

The Master counter-taunts him!

Each taunt and counter-taunt is accompanied by a flurry of kung-fu moves and a sharp-looking pose … *(perhaps a little like a game between Nakamura and Carlsen…)*

The good Master gives Ghost-Faced Killer a chance to back away…

No!

They fight!

…and the Master is defeated!

Ghost-Faced Killer gloats.

But the Student arrives in time to save the Master!

Ghost-Faced Killer fights the Student!

Master gives encouragement and advice from the sidelines.

The fight is spectacular.

Ghost-Faced Killer taunts the student.

The Student is cool.

They bring back the chess metaphors!

Oooooh.
He didn't see that move coming…

Ghost-Faced Killer is checkmated.

THE END

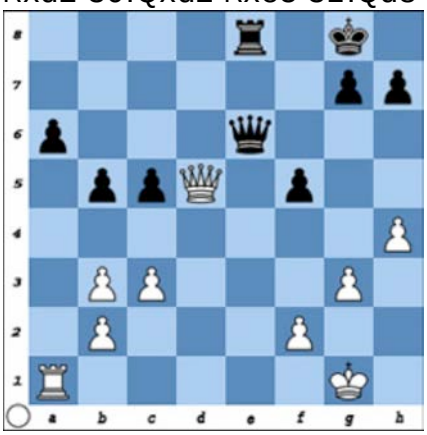
HEAVY PIECE ENDINGS — HEAVY DRAMA GAMES

by Tom Braunlich

At the recent Olympiad the crucial USA-Azerbaijan match featured two key endgames of Q+R vs Q+R, what I call "Heavy Piece Endings". It is not often written about, but it is fairly common and challenging. Caruana and Shankland won both games in instructive style, and the result is quite entertaining!

Caruana, Fabiano (2827)
Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar (2820)
2018 Olympiad (8.1), 02.10.2018 [C83]

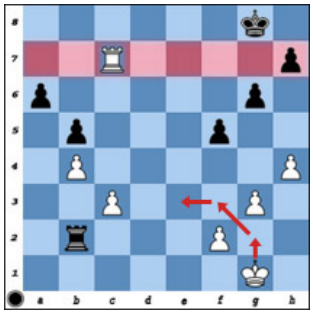
This game between world #2 and world #3 was tense, and the way Caruana outplayed his super-grandmaster opponent shows he is ready for his match with Carlsen (starting November 9).
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7 11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 Bf5 15.Be3 0-0 16.Bd4 Qd5 17.Re1 d2 18.Re2 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg5 21.g3 c5 22.Nf5 Qd3 23.Nd6 Qg6 24.h4 Bf4 25.Ne4 f5 26.Nxd2 Rad8 27.Ra1 Rfe8 28.Qe1 Bxd2 29.Rxd2 Rxd2 30.Qxd2 Rxe5 31.Qd8+ Re8 32.Qd5+ Qe6



The highly theoretical line in the Open Lopez went by the book until Mamedyarov's 25…f5, a move prepared at home by him, which seemed to get him equality. Caruana reacted well and kept a tiny advantage ending up in this position. Black seems near a draw. But watch how Caruana keeps up the pressure on Black and poses problems for his opponent.

33.Rd1
Interesting. Caruana gives Mamedyarov one chance to exchange queens and play the rook ending. Why does he do this? Because if white plays 33.Qxc5 the response 33… f4! was black's idea. Then it would be black getting the initiative and white's king exposed. Caruana was not interested in that, even though the computer says white still maintains a slight edge there also, for example: 34.b4 Qe4 35.Rf1 Rd8. The point is, white wants to be the one making threats, with initiative and control. It isn't worth it to give this up just for one pawn.

However, to maintain control he has to "risk" black will play the rook ending... So Caruana here had to evaluate that too. To some extent Caruana's move is a bluff…
33...c4!?
Black doesn't call the bluff, and I think comes to regret it.
Instead, 33...Qxd5 34.Rxd5 is also crucial, of course. White seems to be winning a pawn, but black gets an active rook with good drawing chances. This may have been black's best chance objectively; Caruana doesn't give him a second chance. This ending might have continued 34...Re2 35.Rxc5 Rxb2 36.b4 g6 37.Rc7



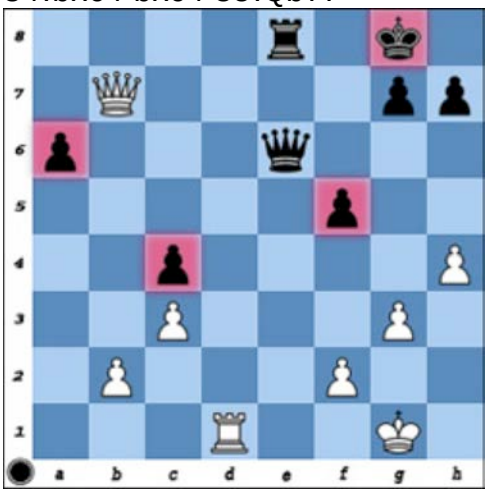
Analysis position.

You could see where black would be unsure of such a position and thought his chances

TOP 25
For NOVEMBER 2018
Top 25 Active Oklahoma
Player
his Month
ange +/-
1 Advait Patel 2563 0
2 Howard Zhong 2304 5
3 Mark Hulsey 2222 0
4 Bart Gibbons 2217 0
5 Tom Braunlich 2200 0
6 Sergey Galant 2188 0
7 Tom Patton 2109 0
8 Chibuzo C Ilonze 2108 1
9 Adonis Turner 2084 0
10 John Cope 2084 0
11 Charles D Unruh 2072 0
12 Veronika Zilajeva 2072 0
13 David Luscomb 2068 14
14 Chuck Johnson 2063 0
15 Anthony Paolercio 2062 0
16 Logan Zachare 2061 -9
17 Michael Nugent 2042 0
18 Matt Dalthorp 2040 0
19 Charles M Unruh 2033 0
20 Alan Islas 2024 0
21 Joe Dean Veal 2010 1
22 James Long 2006 0
23 Jeff Colbert 1998 0
24 Ryan Amburgy 1962 -14
25 Neil Naputo Sr 1956 -16
Player of the Month
AH PAO
He defeated the Ghost-Faced Killer in this month's feature, "Mystery of Chess Boxing" (see page 2)!

would be better with queens on, for the moment at least.

34.bxc4 bxc4 35.Qb7!



No more Q exchange! You can see black has three weak pawns now, and white Q for now dominates the key long light diagonal. But isn't black quite solid? White threatens Rd7 here controlling the 7th rank.

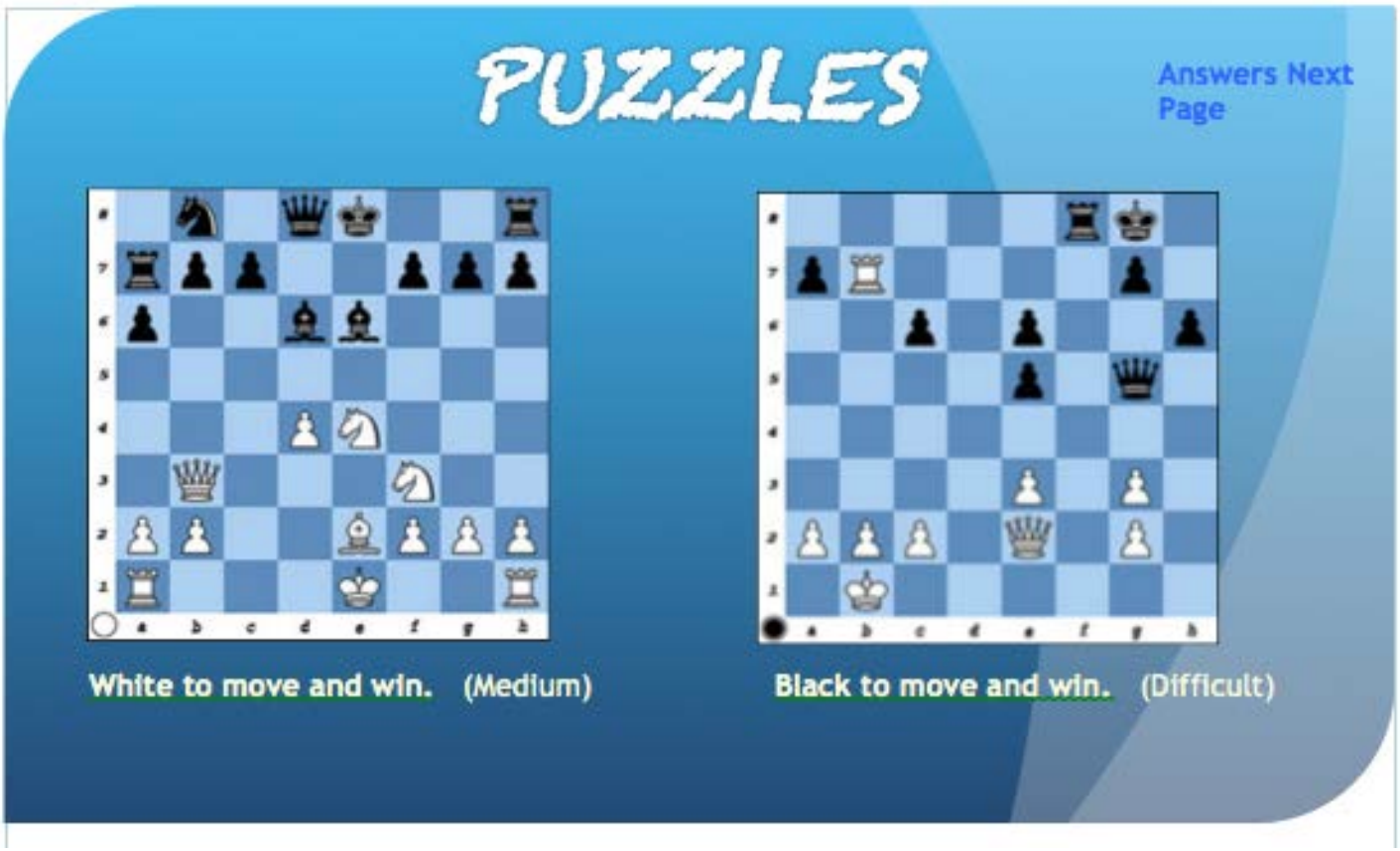
The key to Q+R endings is RELATIVE KING SAFETY.

Both kings here are a little exposed, but Black's situation is a little worse because of the f-pawn. If it were on f7 everything would be fine. But on f5 Caruana has two slightly-open avenues of attack he can try to use – the 7th Rank, and the diagonal from d5 to g8. Furthermore, the black pawn on f5 requires attention and soon black has to play …g6 to support it, further weakening squares around his king!

Watch how Caruana consistently pries apart the black position. Once that happens a player can cause a huge amount of havoc with Q+R around an exposed king, as happens here -- it is then all about *initiative*. At the same time Caruana has to take care not to allow black to do the same to him on the white squares.

35…Re7 36.Rd8+ Kf7 37.Qf3!
White finds a way to redeploy, attacking from different angles, to keep up the pressure.

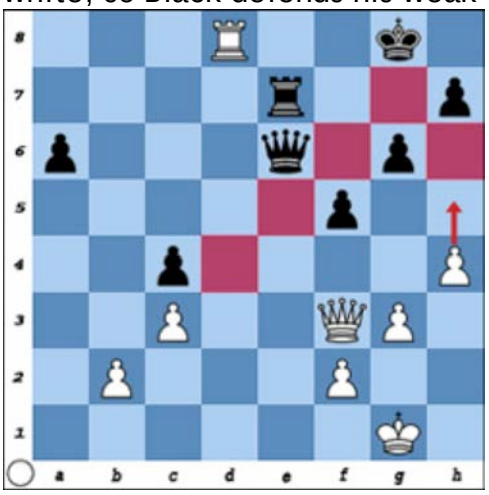
A key concept in such positions is ATTACK FROM BEHIND … the heavy pieces get onto the 8th rank and force the enemy king forward



and out of his castled safety zone into vulnerability. This is almost always deadly, but here white is not quite yet prepared for that, i.e.: 37.Qa8 is what he would like to play, but black responds …Qe1+ 38.Kg2 Qe4+ 39.Qxe4 Rxe4 trading queens and Black is okay in this ending.

37...g6

[37...Qe1+ 38.Kh2! Qe4? 39.Qh5+ is strong for white, so Black defends his weak f-pawn.]



38.Qf4

Immediately creating threats on the newly weakened dark squares!

38...Qc6

Be alert! Black takes the key long diagonal now and threatens ...Re1+.

39.Rd1

A defensive move, but Caruana has judged it to only be temporary. He wants to make some prep moves and then jump out with his rook again.

39...Re4

Maybe best is 39...h5 since he is going to end up with a weak pawn on g6 anyway but at least in this case the h-file is kept closed for awhile.

40.Qh6 Kg8 41.h5!

Loosening another brick in black's wall. By weakening black's g6 square the defense is made more difficult, and now "ATTACK FROM BEHIND" is becoming closer to reality because white will have the h-file down which he can try to get in behind black's position.

41...Re8

[41...Qe6? 42.Rd8+ Kf7 43.Qf8# shows the dangers from behind.]

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21...

Answers to the Puzzles

Two puzzles taken from the recent Women's World Chess Olympiad:
(1) The unprotected rook on a7 forms the basis of a combination. If white can check on e3 with the queen it will win this loose rook. But first she has to clear some pieces out of the way. This she can do with tempo! 1. d5! Bxd5 (other moves by the bishop meet the same fate. 2. Nxd6+! (Not 2. Qxd5?? Bb4+) 2... Qxd6 3. Qe3+ and there goes the rook.

(2) Black is being played by former world champion Alexandra Kosteniuk. White has a weak back rank. Black takes advantage of this by deflecting white's queen cleverly in a series of moves: 1... Qg4! 2. Qe1 (2. Qd3 loses to 2...e4) 2... Qxg3! 3. Qe2, Qg4 4. Qe1, Qxg2 and now black is threatening ...Rf1 winning the white queen.

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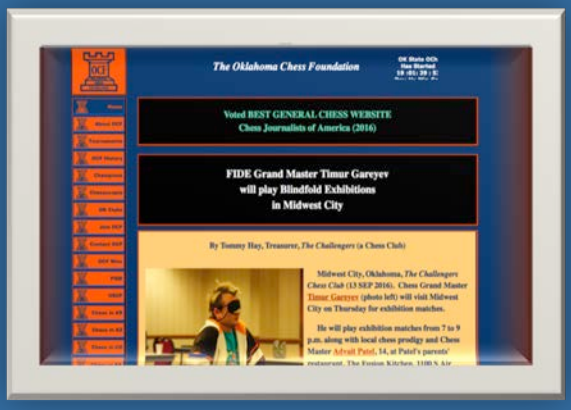
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will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

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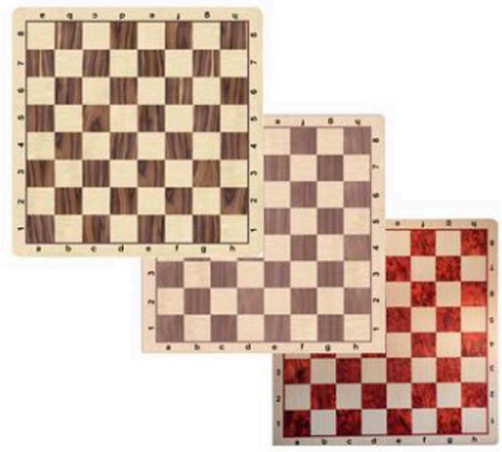


REVIEW: Thin Mousepad Chessboards with Woodgrain

The world of roll-up chessboards has just seen an newsworthy innovation. The new "thin mousepad" or "flex-pad" style solves all problems with roll-up boards.

It used to be the choices were

- Vinyl boards (cheap, but which curl up and crease and don't lay out flat),
- Silicone boards (lay flat but are sticky on top, not allowing pieces to slide), or
- Mousepad boards (too thick and heavy to roll up into many chess bags).

Now the new "Thin Mousepad" roll-up board solves all those problems and is lovely to look at too. It lays flat, won't crease, allows pieces to slide, and is very thin — about 1/3 as thick as old mousepads. They are available in many colors, but I like these impressive woodgrain boards available online from American Chess Equipment: https://bit.ly/2S6CDoA

The woodgrain is realistic enough that high-quality wooden chess sets look great on it.

(h/t Chris Walker).

IM JOHN DONALDSON RETIRES

Honorary Okie IM John Donaldson announced this month he will step down as chess director of the Mechanics Institute Chess Club, the longest-running club in the United States, after a record 20 years of service in this active institution in downtown San Francisco.

John is one of the many members of the Fischer Boom who got seriously into chess after the match with Spassky in 1972. John had two GM norms and came within an inch of that title, and no doubt would have had it in today's more favorable conditions.

He is best known for having written over 30 books, many on chess history, including several volumes on Fischer; and for being the well-respected and very successful Captain of the U.S. Chess Olympiad Team (13 times).

Donaldson, center, with members of 2006 Olympiad team

He is also a rare member of the "500/500 Club" with 500 games rated over 2500 and directed over 500 events. He became an IM in 1983 after graduating from the University of Washington with a BA in history.

John was good friends with Frank and Jim Berry and played in Oklahoma many times over the years. He won the 93-player 2003 North American Open in Stillwater, and last played here in 2008.

As director at the M.I. Club, he had access to a vast library and chess archives, and has always been a terrific source of information for chess researchers. He also works as a consultant for the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis, and is the Secretary for the Samford Fellowship, which is awarded annually to the top chess prospect in the United States. In short, he is a chess scholar of the highest order, and hopefully will continue to be so and also revive his tournament career — and perhaps get that illusive last GM norm.

PATEL WINS STATE BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

IM Advait Patel dominated the OCA Oklahoma Blitz Championship held Oct 20, 2018, in Chandler. There were eight players, using Game in 3 + 2 seconds increment.

The prodigy outrated the competition by about 400 points and unsurprisingly gave up only one draw out of 14 rounds in the event (a double round-robin) on the way to the win. The prize money was not announced.

Second place went to Stephen Gehly and Shaun Graham.

Crosstable:
http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201810208832.1-12474516

The Reserve Section was won impressively by young Naren Pullela, with 14½ out of 16 games.

Tournament Director was Charles M Unruh.

PATEL IN THE GM NORM HUNT

IM Advait Patel has been seeking his final GM norm all summer but without success. Since the U.S. Open he has played in 3 international events with impressive results, but coming up inches short.

At the recent GM-heavy SPICE CUP in St. Louis, for example, held just after the blitz event at left (Oct 23-28), Advait scored 3/6 against strong GMs, including a nice win over Cuban GM Quesada-Perez which is "Game of the Month" this month. But unfortunate draws with lower-rated players torpedoed his norm chances there.

Crosstable here:

http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?20181810282472-14472386

Participants in the Texas Armed Forces and Military Veterans Championship (see story next page)

First Row (seated from left to right): Air Force Veteran Bret Lynn; Texas Armed Forces Women's Champion Clarese Roberts; Oklahoma Armed Forces and Army Champion Neil Naputo; Army Veteran Carmen Chairez; Texas Armed Forces Champion Jim Hollingsworth. Second Row (seated from left to right): Texas Military Veterans Champion Charles Fricks; Games Judge Jeffrey Spyrison; Texas Armed Forces Student Champion Sheryl McBroom; the Adjutant, Air Force Veteran Dale Chaney. Third Row (standing from left to right): Chief Tournament Director and Champion Texas Hold-um Player Chris Wood; Army Veteran Leon Toliver; Chess Expert and Texas Legacy Champion Ron Farrar; Georgia Armed Forces Chess Champion, Retiree Champion and Chess Expert David Hater. Third Row (seated from left to right): Army Veteran Troy Gillispie; Chess Expert and Marines Champion John Ferrell. Fourth Row (standing left to right): Cal Chess Armed Forces and Life Member Champion Tom Boyd; Texas Chess Association President and Texas Armed Forces Navy Champion Tom Crane; Air Force Champion Jimmy Nazario; Texas Armed Forces Unrated Champion Jedwayne Bowser.

Photo by Joe Shaughnessy.

Texas Armed Forces and Military Veterans Championship Draws Players from Five States

By Victor Yaward, Ace Chess Reporter for Texas Knights

Hillsboro, TX — An especially generous donor-funded celebration and appreciation for active and veteran armed forces chess players took place September 29-30, 2018, in this small town just south of Dallas and was won by expert Ron Farrar (2039). Three Okies participated and Neil Naputo won the Oklahoma Armed Forces Champion title.

Upon their arrival at Hill College, players quickly realized this was not just any ordinary tournament, thanks to grateful sponsors:

- None of the players paid any entrance fee.
- Lunches were provided.
- All participants received pocket chess sets from *Bay Area Chess*.
- *Internet Chess Club* donated one-year memberships to all.
- Politicians, college officials and community leaders were on hand to greet the players at the opening ceremonies.
- A long-distance Skype call came in from Army Chess Veteran Mike Donovan wishing the best for everyone.
- The college's "Texas Heritage Museum" (normally closed on Saturdays) was opened especially for all chess-playing veterans. They attended a Veterans Dinner, listened to great speakers, and used "one-minute-intros" to share their stories.
- The capstone event was awarding the "National Chess Master Bill Wall Texas Legacy Award" to Navy Veteran and TCA President Tom Crane for his many years of exemplary service.

Senior TD Chris Wood directed, assisted by Air Force Veteran Dale Chaney.

Jim Hollingsworth, Chief Organizer and Fund Raiser, says, "We are very grateful to American Legion Post 379 (Bedford, Texas), the Arlington Chess Club, Bay Area Chess, CalChess, the Georgia Chess Association, the Oklahoma Chess Association, the City of Hillsboro, Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, Hill College staff, Internet Chess Club, the Tarrant County Chess Club, and the Texas Heritage Museum staff for all their support."

"State Senator Brian Birdwell's visit was especially uplifting," Hollingsworth added, "as he is one of us (retired military)."

"We are especially grateful to Harmon Throneberry, Tim Welch, Tom Crane, Jeff French, Eddie Rios, Lois Wall, Jim Stallings and many others who donated and made all this possible."

More special military championships like this are being planned. Negotiations are underway to bring the US Armed Forces Open Chess Championship to Texas in 2021. More information about the 2018 Texas Armed Forces and Military Veterans Open Chess Championships is available at: https://texaschess.org

Neal Naputo (left) received the title of Oklahoma Armed Forces Champion from Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth (right). Photo by Sheryl McBroom.

Jimmy Nazario (left) receives the Air Force Champion prize and title from Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth. Photo by Sheryl McBroom.

CENTER-STATE QUADS A SUCCESS IN CHANDLER

24 players participated in six four-player round robin "quads" in Chandler, OK, at the Chandler Baseball Camp, the pleasant venue that is becoming a common chess location thanks to its midway location between OKC and Tulsa and the generosity of manager Michael Bay.

The event was directed by TD Harold Brown.

Winners of the six round-robins were:

Group A: (Avg rating = 2070)
Tom Braunlich 3-0

Group B: (Avg rating = 1845)
Luke Tran 3-0

Group C: (Avg rating = 1635)
Jim Huang 3-0

Group D: (Avg rating = 1280)
Omar Abouzahr 3-0

Group E: (Avg rating = unr)
Rob Tumy 3-0

Group F: (Avg rating = unr)
Liko Ironherron 3-0

Full crosstables of all the players here:

http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201810272152.1-10386161

Harold Brown generously paid the entry fee for any players new to USCF or who were renewing a lapsed membership after 18 months or more. We had five new and one renewed membership!

Six unrated players were divided up into the last two groups for the round robin.

Michael Bay provided free pizza for lunch, along with coffee and breakfast stuff in the morning.

We will have games in the next issue of OCM...

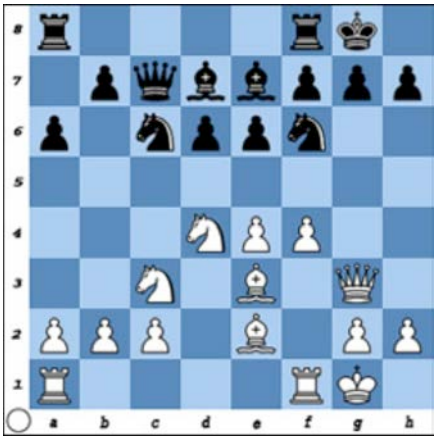
Top Group: (L to R) Long-Braunlich-Zachare-Veal

Group B: (L to R) Zuluaga-Pullela-Tran-Temple

New player Rob Tumy, won group E.

In this smooth win over a GM from Cuba, Advait Patel treats us to another instructive game on this month's theme "Heavy Piece Endings" (See article above).

IM Patel, Advait (2461)
GM Quesada Perez, Y. (2622) [B85]
SPICE Cup Open 2018 Saint Louis USA (5.8), 25.10.2018
[Notes by TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 a6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Be3 Be7 9.f4 d6 10.Qe1 0-0 11.Qg3 Bd7

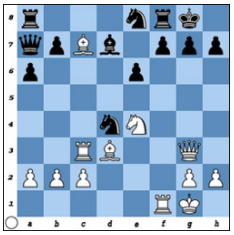


The two players have chosen one of the most classic opening tabiyas of the Sicilian Defense, a main line of the Scheveningen. Thousands of games have been played from here and still the position retains a lively reputation -- both sides have flexible positions and the pawn structure has a lot of different ways it can develop further -- depending on whether white tries e4-e5 or f4-f5, and whether black tries ...d6-d5 or ...e6-e5. All four of these pawn thrusts are possible.

12.Rae1

The most common move here is 12.Kh1, tucking the king out of exposure on the diagonal (as many times a check on that diagonal is a key motif for black.

However, I remember back in the 1970s there was a sensational game played by two of the top players of the day in which white gambited a pawn with 12.e5!? This game (Ljubojevic-Anderson, 1976) was heavily annotated by GM Jan Timman in his book, "The Art of Chess Analysis" and is a fascinating read. I remember Timman went so far as to call Ljubo's gambit a "bluff", but I think it has stood the test of time, or is at least thought of nowadays as being good enough for a draw with white.



That game went: 12...dxe5 13.fxe5 Nxe5 14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Rad1 Qb8 16.Rd3 Ne8 17.Ne4 Bc7 18.Rc3 Nc6 19.Bxc7 Nxd4 20.Bd3 Qa7

21.Nc5 Bb5 22.Be5 Nc6 23.Bxh7+ Kxh7 24.Rf4 f6 25.Rh4+ Kg8 26.Qh3 Nd8 27.Bd4 b6 28.Nxe6 Nxe6 29.Qxe6+ Qf7 30.Qe4 g5? *(30...Qxa2 31.Qxa8? Qb1+ 32.Kf2 Qf1+ 33.Kg3 Qe1+ 34.Bf2 Qe5+ 35.Kh3 Qe6+ 36.Kg3 g5 37.Rg4 Ng7-+)* 31.Rh6 Ra7 32.Rch3 Qg7 33.Rg6 Rff7 34.c4 1-0 (34) Ljubojevic, L (2620)-Andersson, U (2585)/Wijk aan Zee 1976]

12...b5 13.a3 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bc6 15.Bd3

All these moves are commonly played and logical, white sets up his bishops aggressively pointing toward the king and is winding up for e4-e5 (or if black plays ...g6 white often replies by pushing the f-pawn instead). Black, for his part tries to keep these threats under control and hopes for ...d5 at the right moment, and also hopes a check on the white king on the diagonal will help.

15...Rad8

This moved is aimed against white's e4-e5 threat by making a veiled threat against the d4 bishop. But after white's next move he renews the pawn thrust threat.

16.Kh1

16...Qd7?!

This move was played in the Olympiad just a few weeks prior, and earned black a quick draw there. So I suppose that is why Quesada tried it, but I can't say I'm a fan.

[16...Qb7 is the move commonly played here. Example game: 17.Qh3 g6 18.f5 e5 19.Be3 and in this classic setup lots of moves have been tried but 19...d5 has scored well for black: 20.exd5 Bxd5 21.Nxd5 Qxd5 22.Bg5 Rd6 23.Qh4 Bd8 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.Rd1 Qc6 26.Qg3 Re8 27.Bh6 Kh8 28.Rde1 Rde6 29.c3 e4= 0-1 (66) Kotronias,V (2590)-Saltaev,M (2450)/Katerini 1993/]

17.e5!?

[17.Nd1 Nh5 18.Qg4 Nf6 19.Qg3 Nh5 20.Qg4 Nf6 21.Qg3 - Draw- Zajic -Vitiugov, Olympiad 2018).]

Was Quesada expecting to get a quick draw by repeating this line? If so, Patel quickly shows he is not in such a peaceful mood!]

17...dxe5 18.Bxe5 Nh5 19.Qh3 g6

This is a typical defensive setup for black, but there is lots of play in the position still.

20.Ne4 f6!?

[It's easy to criticize this move weakening black's pawns, but the computer's preferred suggestion here, (20...Qb7) is not appealing to a human, who would then be admitting he should have placed the queen here before, not on d7; essentially down a tempo.]

21.Bc3 Bxe4?!

[21...Ng7 defending e6 and f5 seems to stymie white's attacking chances and give black a fairly equal game. At least white would have to find an effective regrouping to play for a win. But exchanging his good bishop seems wrong.]

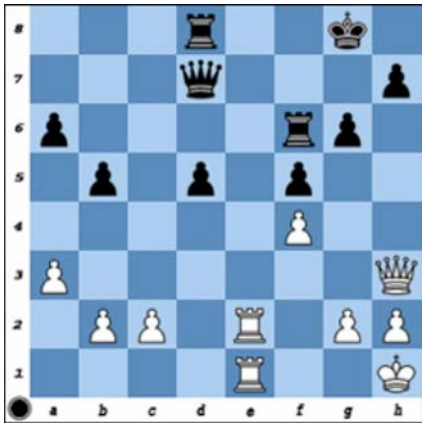
22.Bxe4 f5 23.Bf3 Nf6

Black's maneuver has given him a solid kingside, but a pawn weakness that Patel will exploit very instructively from now on...

24.Re2 Nd5 25.Rd1!

This move allows Advait to create a chronic weak isolated pawn for black.

25...Bf6 26.Bxd5 exd5 27.Bxf6 Rxf6 28.Rde1



HEAVY PIECE ENDING

See my article elsewhere in this issue about heavy piece endings.

Here white has a superior pawn structure, control of the only open file, and a safer king. Those are all the ingredients one needs to win such endings, as Caruana showed. If you've read that article, you won't be surprised to know that Black's king ends up getting mated on h5 in about 20 moves from here!

28...Rf7 29.Qh4 Rdf8 30.Qf2

Coming to the central d4 square where the Q will dominate on the long diagonal...

30...Qc7 31.c3 Rd7 32.Re5

If you compare to the Caruana game against Mamedyarov you can see a lot of similarities!

The main difference is that there is an extra pair of rooks in play. This makes it easier for white to pressure the black weak points, and he has the possibility of doubling rooks on the sixth or seventh rank too.

32...Qc4

He perhaps sees if he defends the d-pawn passively white will tie him down, play h2-h4-h5, open black's king, and penetrate down the open files like Caruana did. So he prepares a desperate pawn sac.

33.Rd1!

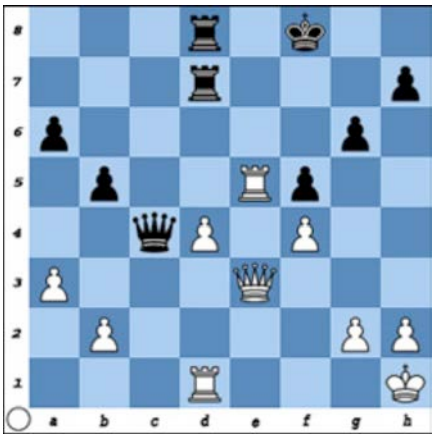
[33.Qb6 Qxf4 34.Qxa6 Qc4 35.Rd1 is another way to try to take advantage of black's last move, but no need to make such exchanges.]

33...d4!?

[It was the last chance to sac this pawn before it gets blockaded, so he took it. Instead, 33...Rfd8 34.Rd4 Qc5 35.Qe3 is total domination and looks hopeless in the long run. GMs don't like to be in passive defense, so he rolls the dice by ditching the pawn for some open lines. But Patel handles it!]

34.cxd4 Rfd8 35.Qe3 Kf8

[35...Rxd4? 36.Re8+ Kg7 37.Rxd8+-]



36.d5! Qc2

[36...Rxd5 37.Rdxd5! wins. (Check it out for yourself!)]

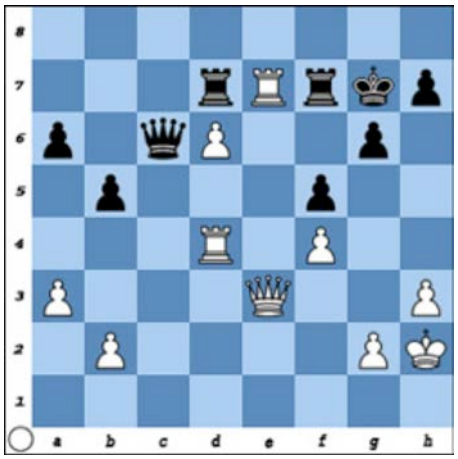
37.Re1 Qc7 38.Qd4

With a few accurate moves aided by some tactics against the black king, Patel was able to squash black's temporary initiative and now is completely winning. He finishes in nice style...

38...Kg8 39.h3 Qc4 40.Qe3 Qc7 41.Re6 Rf8 42.Rd1 Qc4 43.d6 Qc6 44.Rd4

Control of the center!

44...Qc5 45.Kh2 Kg7 46.b4 Qc6 47.Re7+ Rf7



48.Qe5+ Kh6 49.Re8

"Attack from Behind" just as in the Caruana game. Black's K is forced up and now is vulnerable to a mating attack.

49...Qc3 50.Rg8

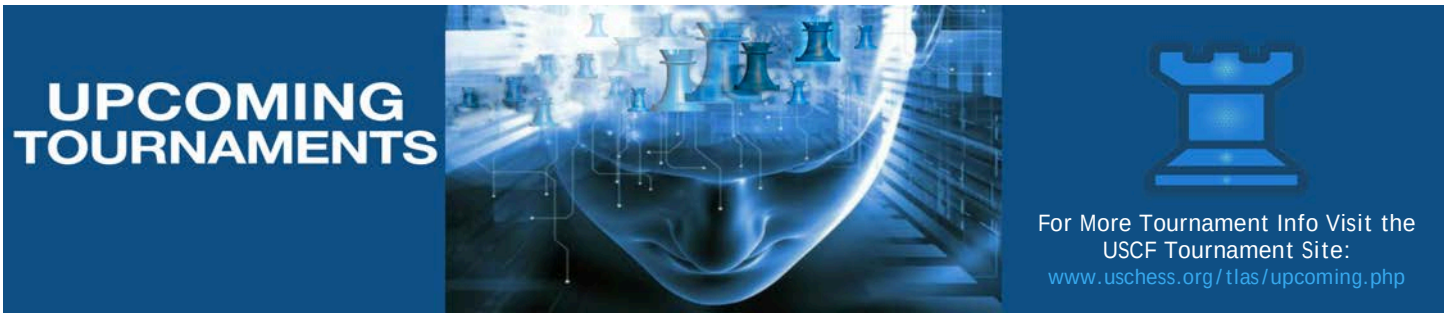
Closing off the black's king's escape route on g7. This technique is fundamental to "weaving a mating net".

50...Qxa3 51.Qe1

The tactics begin, and Advait finishes the game nicely...

51...Kh5 52.g4+ fxg4 53.Rd5+ Rf5 54.Rxf5+ 1-0

Another nice and instructive win for the future GM!



Nov 10 CARLSEN-CARUANA Watch Party and Chess Blast! **Okla. City**, OK

Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. 4-round double-Swiss Blitz games, part of a special non-rated fun tournament combined with big-screen TV group viewing of Game 2 of the Carlsen-Caruana match, with online grandmaster commentary!
EF: $5 at door. $$Prizes: Fun Stuff.
NOTE: Championship Match Broadcast begins 9:00am (Game 2) — This is a change from before.
REGISTRATION: 8:30am-9:30am. Try to arrive before the match coverage begins at 9:00, but it isn't necessary. BLITZ PLAY: In addition to enjoying the match coverage we will play Blitz games *based on the match game's current position throughout the day*, starting about 9:45am.

- *Live Internet Video: on large-screen TV the Match (starting at 9:00am).*
  Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net
- *Free Refreshments: Including Lunch plus Coffee, Tea, and snacks.*

Dec 1-2 2nd STEVE WHARRY CLASSIC Tulsa, OK

5-SS; G/90+30; Wyndham Hotel Oklahoma City, 2945 Northwest Expressway, OKC 73112, (405)848-4811. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1600), Novice (U1200). EF: Novice: $30. Open & Reserve: $45 if mailed by 11/26, $50 at site. FREE entry for Masters 2200+ (deducted from prizes) Prizes $$2100 (based on 55 paid entries, 1st place guaranteed). Open: $500(G)-200 X: 200 A: 200-100, U1800: 200-100 Reserve (U1600): C: $200-100, U1400: 200-100, Novice: $$ per entries. Byes: One half-point bye Rds 1-5 if commit before Sat 9PM. REG: 9-9:45 Sat AM Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Entries to: Tom Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch, Broken Arrow OK 74011. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org

Dec 29 28th Annual HOLIDAY OPEN Tulsa, OK

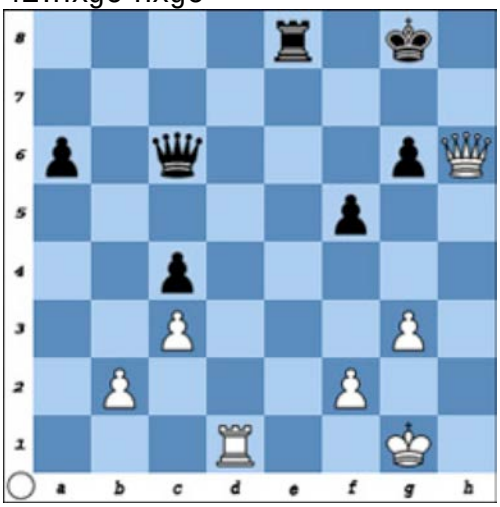
4-SS, G/50+15 spm. (Dual rated). Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. Cash Prizes $200-1st(G), plus other cash prizes per entries. Free coffee and refreshments. REG.: 9-9:45 AM. RDS.: 10-12:30-3-5:30 PM. EF: $20 cash or check at door. BYES: One 1/2-point bye Rds. 1, 2 or 3. LS W. Advance Entries and Information: Jim Berry, P O Box 351, Stillwater, OK 74076. JABerrycg@aol.com.

OCF EVENTS IN 2019

For next year OCF is currently planning 4-5 traditional two-day tournaments, (including at least one "ConSat" event) along with 4 one-day tournaments and several special events!

DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEXT OKLAHOMA CHESS MONTHLY

42.hxg6 hxg6



43.Kf1!

This mysterious and instructive move is directed against black's counterplay on the 1st rank. The King prevents ...Re2 or ...Re1, while white's Queen now prevents ...Qh1! White's R is now freed to rejoin the attack!

43...Re6

Setting up a tough defense of g6.

44.Qh4!

Caruana maneuvers. Black was ready to beat back the attack after 44.Rd8+ Re8 45.Rd4 Re4 Caruana prepares to get Rd4 without allowing ...Re4 in response.

44...Re8

[44...Re4 45.Rd8+ Re8 46.Rxe8+ Qxe8 47.Qxc4+ wins material. Working with tactics involving weak pawns is another hallmark of Heavy Piece Endings.]

45.Rd4

Mission accomplished! Rook activated! Pressure on c4 pawn, but more importantly now ideas of Qh6 + Rh4 etc.

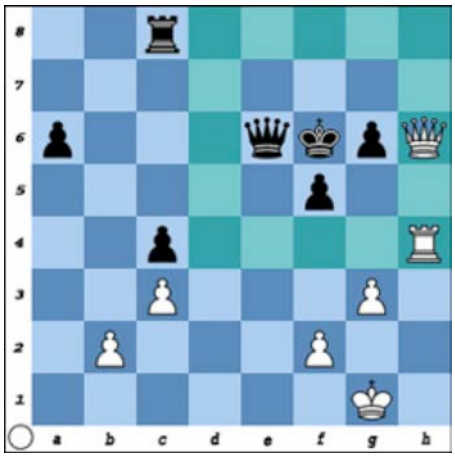
45...Rc8 46.Qh6!

Now finally Caruana's initiative is becoming obvious, and he is preparing to attack black's King in earnest.

46...Qe6 47.Rh4 Kf7 48.Qh7+ Kf6

ATTACK FROM BEHIND! Now the attack begins. White has forced weaknesses around black's King, and given himself the h-file to infiltrate black's position, as well as the 7th and 8th ranks and the diagonals d5-g8 and d4-h8.

It's not surprising that black can't keep all these lines covered forever. In such positions, the ability of the Q+R to dance around and combine threats from different angles is extremely hard to defend against. Often it is worth a pawn or two to get a king exposed like this. Here Caruana has created it for free!



49.Rd4

Such switchbacks are characteristic of these attacks. White can maneuver from one threat to another until an opportunity opens up.

Watch how Caruana's Rook rocks back and forth between the d- and h-files, and later to rank 8, while his Queen jumps back and forth between d4 and the h-file and finally again rank 8, the ultimate destination — basically maneuvering around the GREEN PERIMETER in the diagram.

Black's only real defense here is to work with "threats" of exchanging queens (or to find a way to get perpetual checks.)

49...Qe7 50.Qh6 Kf7

[50...Qf8 51.Qd2 Rc6 52.Rd7 is another example of how hopeless things can get for black. Too many attacking angles for these strong pieces!]

51.Qd2

[The computer gives 51.g4 to open up further lines as strongest. But one of the characteristics of such positions is you can take your time. As long as you keep the pressure on and not allow a breakout, you are always winning.]

51...Rc7 52.Rh4

So he wants to attack with the R in front and the Q on d4...

52...Kf6 53.Qd4+ Qe5 54.Qb6+ Kg7 55.Qb8!

Now infiltration to the back rank can't be stopped by black, and the end is in sight.

55...Kf6 56.Qh8+ Ke6 57.Qg8+ Kf6 58.Rd4 Qe7 59.Rd8!

The threat is Rf8+ and black can no longer stop it. The king is finally forced forward into a net.

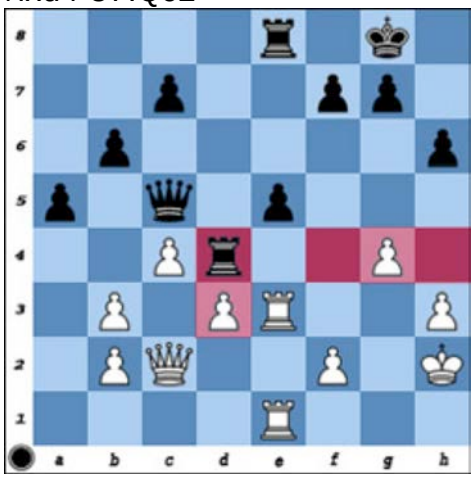
59...Kg5 60.f4+ Kh5 61.Rd2! Qg7 62.Rh2+ Kg4 63.Kg2! g5 [63...Qxg8 64.Rh4#] 64.Qe8! and mate next move 1-0

ENDING OR MIDDLEGAME?

That was a masterful example of sustained initiative and pressure based on piece activity by Caruana. I'd say it is typical of Heavy Piece Endings… they are characterized by ongoing attacks against an exposed king, exposed pawn weaknesses, or both.

To some extent, they shouldn't even be classified as "endings" but could be considered still a middlegame. In endings usually the King must be activated to assist in the play, but in heavy piece endings this seldom is possible, so they are really late middlegames.

Mamedov, Rauf (2699)
Shankland, Sam (2722)
2018 Olympiad (8.4), 02.10.2018 [C54]
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Bb3 a5 7.Nbd2 0ñ0 8.Nf1 Be6 9.Ng3 h6 10.0ñ0 Bxb3 11.axb3 d5 12.Qe2 Re8 13.Bd2 Bf8 14.Rfd1 Qd7 15.exd5 Qxd5 16.c4 Qe6 17.Bc3 Nd7 18.Qc2 Nc5 19.Ne4 Na6 20.Re1 Rad8 21.Rad1 Nab4 22.Qb1 Qg6 23.Nh4 Qh5 24.Nf3 Qg6 25.h3 b6 26.Nh4 Qh5 27.Nf3 Bc5 28.Kh2 Nd4 29.Bxd4 Bxd4 30.g4 Qg6 31.Nh4 Qc6 32.Nf5 Bc5 33.Nxc5 Qxc5 34.Re3 Nc6 35.Rde1 Nd4 36.Nxd4 Rxd4 37.Qc2

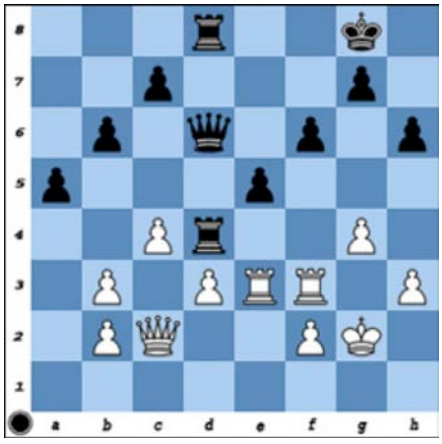


Another example of Q+R endgames by Sam Shankland shows the importance of initiative, tying down opponent to weak points, creating new weak points, playing for a breakthrough pawn move at the right moment, and then technique once the positions breaks open.

37...Qd6 38.Kg2 f6 39.Rf3

White prepares to defend his weakness from the side. Putting his two Rooks on the d-file to defend the pawn from behind would be a mistake — after black is tripled on the d-file white's d-pawn would be pinned, and black could win it by moving his pawn to e4. Defending from the side avoids this pin.

39...Rd8 40.Ree3



40… Kf7!

Very instructive. Patience! In such positions when the opponent is tied down, the first job is to prevent their counterplay, and the second is to make all preparations first before you begin active operations. Here Sam has various ideas of opening up the position on the kingside to get at white's king as in the Caruana game, but doing so right away would expose his own king there. So, before doing so he simply puts his king in safety on the queenside.

41.Kf1 Ke7 42.Ke2 Qc6 43.Qc3

Note that white can't also run with his own king to the queenside. Stepping onto the d-file here walks into a pin and loses material to …e4.

43… Kd7 44.Qc2 Kc8 45.Kf1 Kb7 46.Rg3 Rf4

Infiltration! This is part of a plan to open lines on kingside, with rooks in the lead.

47.Kg1

47…g5

"Control! One must learn control!" Here Shankland fixes white's g-pawn in preparation for opening the h-file with the move …h5. He doesn't want to play …h5 yet and allow white to possibly bypass with g4-g5, keeping the file closed and causing some chaos in the position. Playing …g5 keeps control for black – but does have a drawback (the f6 pawn is now weak). Later white does take advantage of this to get some counterplay, but Shankland has judged this is something he can handle.

48.Re1 Qe8 49.Kg2 h5 50.Re4 Qc6 51.Rf3 Qd7 52.Rg3 Qh7 53.gxh5 Qxh5 54.c5!?

Hoping for counterplay. But so far it is still only a shadow.

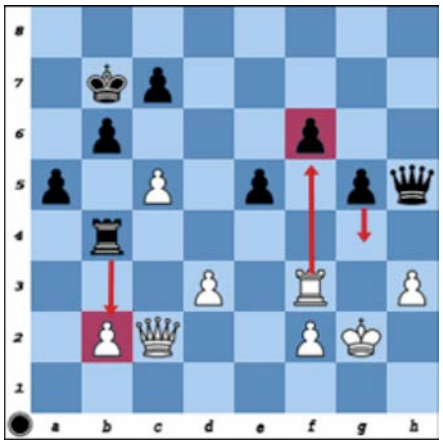
54…Rd4

Control. Preventing counterplay. Pressure.

55.b4?!

As often happens, the defender loses patience and lashes out when he sees the opponent making progress. Although this may hasten the end for White, it does give him more chances for counterplay and is a good practical decision. [If 55.cxb6 cxb6 56.f3 Qh7 57.Rg4 Rd6 etc.]

55…Rxb4 56.Rxb4 Rxb4 57.Rf3



White gave up a pawn to reduce some of the pressure and put counter-pressure on black's f-pawn. At this point black wants to keep his R and not trade it with …Rf4 here, as the Q ending just one pawn up could be tricky. Sam now wants to keep control of the kingside pawn formation while carefully advancing on the queenside where he has an extra pawn. All the while he is aware of opportunities to open white's king (g5-g4 etc), while avoiding some kind of breakout by white that might end in a perpetual or some counterplay on the black king. Thus, he can work with threats on both sides of the board, which is a deadly combination in such positions for the defender to deal with, as we saw in the Caruana game.

57...Qf7

[Direct attack with 57...g4 58.Rxf6 Qxh3+ 59.Kg1 g3 60.cxb6 is allowing White the counterplay he wants. Even if this also wins, why allow it? Black doesn't have to hurry.]

58.Kg1 Qe6 59.cxb6 Qxb6 60.b3 Ka7

[60...Rxb3 61.Rxf6! is unnecessary complications. Don't allow them! 61...Qxf6 62.Qxb3+]

61.Qa2 Kb7

Patience. He is preparing pawn advances but wants to place his king optimally first. He decides it should be on c8. [61...g4? 62.Rxf6! Qxf6 63.Qxa5+ shows why a7 is not good. Note how Sam stays alert to such tactics, and is not above admitting his move 60...Ka7 was wrong.

62.Qc2 Kc8 63.Qa2 g4!

It is useful to further expose white's king.

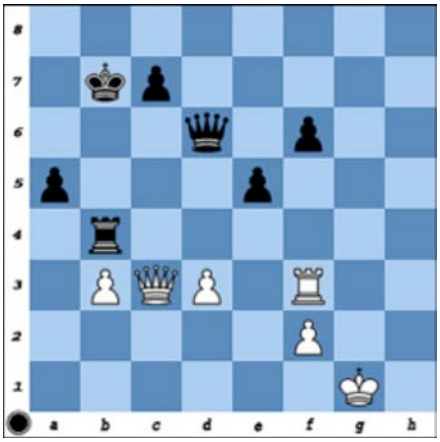
64.hxg4 Rxg4+ 65.Kf1

Plan? Black wants to get a passed pawn. Black's basic plan is to win the b-pawn or at least trade it for black's f-pawn at a time in which the black a-pawn will be ready to roll down the board.

65...Qc6 66.Ke2 Qb6 67.Kf1 Rb4 68.Qc2 Kb7 69.Kg1 Qd6

Centralizing the Q, another strong general idea in such endings.

70.Qc3



70...Qd4?!

Both players were in some time trouble here and Sam plays some hesitant moves. I think more clear was to continue with the Heavy Pieces by centralizing the Queen and attacking b3: 70...Qd5! 71.Rxf6 *(71.Rg3 Rxb3)* 71...Rxb3 72.Qc2 a4 with a winning passed pawn — and also the Q on d5 is very threatening to white's King; one rook check on the 1st rank will mate white. I think the game would be over soon, but now Sam has to endure a Rook ending which is probably more difficult to win that he thought it would be.

71.Qc2

[71.Qxd4 exd4 72.Rxf6 Rxb3 -+]

71...Rb6 72.Rg3 Qd5 73.Qc4!

White has been allowed some hope — queens get traded now. Black didn't have to allow this. Even though the Rook ending is lost for white, he gets drawing chances and Sam will have to play well to convert it.

73...Qxc4 74.dxc4 Kc6!

With the Qs gone the Ks can activate.

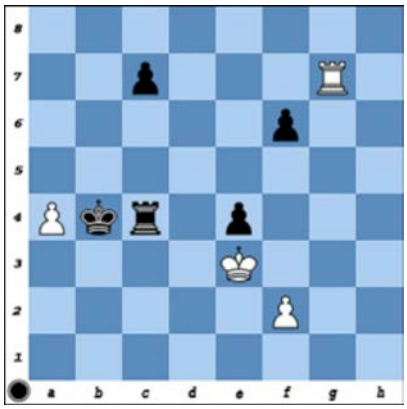
75.Kf1 Kc5 76.Ke2 Kb4 77.Kd2 Rd6+ 78.Kc2 Rd4 79.Rg7

[79.Rf3 a4]

79...a4?!

[79...Rf4 80.Rxc7 Rxf2+ 81.Kd3 Rf3+ 82.Ke4 Rxb3 83.c5 a4 84.c6 Kc5 85.Kf5 Rf3+]

80.bxa4 Rxc4+ 81.Kd3 e4+ 82.Ke3



82...f5!

He can't afford to trade any more pawns. This

allows the e-pawn to be firmly protected and black can play ...Rc5 to protect everything else. Then the a-pawn falls and black can eventually push his c-pawn to win. [82...Kxa4 83.Rf7 c5 84.Rxf6=]

83.Rf7 Rc3+!

Vigilance! Subtleties like this are critical. The K is forced away from f4 before ...Rc5 is played.

84.Kd4!? c5+

Shooing the K away from the R so that the pawn on a4 can be taken, and the c-pawn begins its run.

85.Kd5 Rf3 86.a5

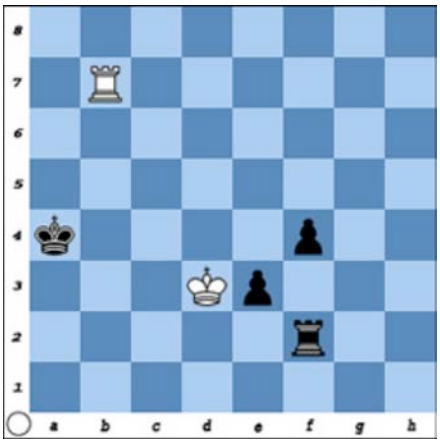
White has only a choice of how he wants to go down. Instead:

- 86.Rb7+ Kxa4 87.Rb2 would leave black with the c-pawn: …Ka3 88.Re2 Kb4 89.Rc2 Kb3 90.Re2 c4;
- 86.Rb7+ Kxa4 87.Kxc5 Rxf2 similar to the game.;
- 86.Ra7 Rxf2 87.a5 e3 etc.]

86...Kxa5 87.Kxc5 Ka4 88.Kc4 Ka3 89.Rb7 Rxf2 90.Kc3 Rf3+ 91.Kd4 e3 92.Kc3 Ka4

Be alert! The tempting move 92...e2+? 93.Kd2 Re3 94.Rb1! f4 95.Re1= would be a tragedy.

93.Kd3 f4



94.Kc4 Ka5 95.Rb1 e2 96.Kc5 Rf1 0-1
A fine win by Shankland.

Together these two Heavy Piece Endings (late middlegames?) provide us a clinic on how to play these positions and are worth remembering…

En Passant: Danny Dunn 1946 - 2018

Danny Dunn passed away on September 14, 2018. He was an avid player (a life member of USCF) in the Fort Worth area, a noted composer of chess studies (specializing in helpmates), long-time editor for the problemist magazine *StrateGems* (for 11 years), and a contributor to *Oklahoma Chess Monthly* and *Texas Knights* magazines.

He said, "My parents bought me a plastic chess set when I was young and I taught myself to play from books. I joined USCF and started playing in tournaments in high school. … I stopped playing chess during my working years, but started playing OTB again after I retired."

Several of his helpmate problems were featured in OCM.

Dunn earned a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from University of North Texas and began his career as an analytical chemist at Alcon Laboratories where he retired as Vice-President after 32 years.

He was married for 51 years (Nancy), with two children (Andy, Wendy), and two grandchildren (Drew, Addison).